

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06

CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-10 TAR-01 STR-04

CEA-01 /112 W

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R 091600Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 424

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS CIUDAD JUAREZ 0068

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MX

SUBJ: DUTY-FREE IMPORTATION OF BOURBON WHISKEY IN
CIUDAD JUAREZ

REF: MEXICO'S 3204

1. SINCE THE LIFTING OF RESTRICTION ON BOURBON IMPORTS ON APRIL 14, ARTICLES HAVE APPEARED IN LOCAL PRESS TO EFFECT THAT CIUDAD JUAREZ CANACINTRA (NATIONAL CHAMBER OF MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY) INTENDS TO PROTEST ACTION OF THE INTERSECRETARIAL COMMISSION IN LIFTING RESTRICTION ON GROUNDS THAT IMPORTATION OF BOURBON DUTY FREE RUNS COUNTER TO IDEA BEHIND "ARTICULOS GANCHO" PROGRAM IN THAT BOURBON NOT ITEM OF NECESSITY AND WHISKEY OF SIMILAR CHARACTER PRODUCED LOCALLY BY TWO DISTILLERIES. CANACINTRA TAKES POSITION THAT THESE DISTILLERIES SHOULD BE PROTECTED BY GOM AS THEY PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT FOR LARGE NUMBER OF CIUDAD JUAREZ RESIDENTS AND ARE SOURCE OF CONSIDERABLE TAX REVENUE FOR GOM.

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2. LIC. JOSE MANUEL GONZALEZ MONTEJANO, PRESIDENT OF

LOCAL ECONOMIC PROMOTION COMMITTEE, INFORMED CONSULATE THAT IMPORT QUOTA OF SEVEN MILLION PESOS FOR DUTY-FREE WINES AND LIQUORS FOR SIX-MONTH PERIOD MAY 1 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 1975 WAS RECEIVED MAY 6 FROM INTERSECRETARIAL COMMISSION. IN RESPONSE OUR INQUIRY AS TO HOW MUCH BOURBON HAS BEEN IMPORTED SINCE LIFTING OF IMPORT RESTRICTION, HE STATED THAT OBTAINING THAT FIGURE WOULD POSE CONSIDERABLE WORKLOAD FOR HIS STAFF. HE AFFIRMED, HOWEVER, THAT COMMITTEE HAS RESUMED ISSUANCE OF IMPORT PERMITS FOR BOURBON.

3. REPRESENTATIVE OF CANACINTRA EXPRESSED VIEW, AS REPORTED IN LOCAL PRESS, THAT INTERSECRETARIAL COMMISSION HAS TENDED NOT TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS OF THE ECONOMIC PROMOTION COMMITTEE HERE, WITH RESULT THAT COMMITTEE'S ROLE REDUCED PROCESSING IMPORT PERMITS. CITED BOURBON IMPORTS AS CASE IN POINT, SINCE ECONOMIC PROMOTION COMMITTEE WENT ON RECORD AS OPPOSING DUTY-FREE IMPORTATION OF BOURBON. WE UNDERSTAND CANACINTRA IS NOW MAKING THOROUGH STUDY OF MATTER AND WILL DIRECT PROTEST TO INTERSECRETARIAL COMMISSION WHEN STUDY IS COMPLETED.
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